

# Claims

- [c1] 1. An adjustable coupler lock, comprising:
- a) a lock body, comprising
    - i) a locking mechanism, and
    - ii) a locking plate;
  - b) a shaft having a narrow end, a flange end, and at least two recesses along the length of the shaft;
- wherein the shaft is inserted into one of two openings in the lock body and moved through the lock body in a first direction,
- and engagement of the locking plate with one of the shaft recesses does not allow movement of the shaft through the lock body in a second direction unless the locking mechanism is unlocked.
- [c2] The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein components of the lock are made of stainless steel.
- [c3] The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein the shaft recesses have a vertical edge nearer the narrow end of the shaft, and a tapered edge nearer the flange end of the shaft.
- [c4] The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein the shaft is moved through the lock body in the first direction without un-

locking the locking mechanism.

- [c5] An adjustable coupler lock comprising:
  - a lock body;
  - a locking mechanism disposed within said lock body;
  - an adjustable means for securing the lock body to an object, wherein said adjustable means allows the lock body to move in a first direction but not in a second direction when the coupler lock is in a locked position.
- [c6] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 5, wherein said adjustable means for securing the lock body to an object comprises a shaft with two or more recesses.
- [c7] The coupler lock of claim 6, wherein the shaft recesses have a vertical edge and a tapered edge.
- [c8] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 5, further comprising a cam engageable by said locking mechanism and engagable by a locking plate.
- [c9] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 8, wherein said cam includes a groove which engages said locking mechanism and a projection which engages said locking plate.
- [c10] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 9, wherein said locking plate includes a notch which is engaged by said projection on said cam.

- [c11] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 6, further comprising a locking plate, wherein said locking plate includes an opening through which said shaft is inserted.
- [c12] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 11, wherein said opening in said locking plate includes a peripheral edge which engages one of said two or more recesses when said coupler lock is in a locked position.
- [c13] A method of locking a coupler latch comprising the steps of:  
inserting a shaft, which includes two or more recesses thereon, through an opening in said latch;  
sliding a lock body over said shaft, wherein said lock body includes a locking mechanism and a locking plate;  
spring biasing said locking plate in a direction such that the locking plate engages said shaft when said locking body is slid over said shaft; and  
sliding said lock body towards said latch;  
wherein said locking plate engages said recesses in said shaft and allows continued advancement of said lock body toward said latch without unlocking said locking mechanism, but does not allow for the lock body to move in a direction opposite of the latch.
- [c14] The method of claim 13, wherein said shaft is inserted

through an opening in said locking plate and said locking plate includes a peripheral edge that engages one of said two or more recesses when said lock is in a locked position.

[c15] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 6, further comprising a seal located around a portion of the lock body that seals against the shaft.

[c16] The adjustable coupler lock of claim 6, further comprising a protective coating that is applied on a portion of said shaft.

[c17] An adjustable coupler lock comprising:  
a lock body and locking mechanism;  
a shaft with two or more recesses; and  
a locking plate which engages one of said two or more recesses when said coupler lock is in a locked position;  
wherein said shaft can be inserted through said lock body and said locking plate in two opposing directions.